

**1998 Progress Report
New York State Integrated Pest Management Program**

Title: Assessing and Augmenting Biological Control of Tarnished Plant Bug in New York Strawberries

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Abstract

The objective of this project is to investigate biological control of the tarnished plant bug in New York strawberries by the introduced parasitoid wasp *Peristenus digoneutis*. The first project goal for 1998 was to evaluate the impact of companion plantings of alfalfa on parasitism rates in nearby strawberries. The field experiment aimed at this goal was unsuccessful because plots did not survive overwintering in 1997-1998. The second goal was to continue a sampling program for parasitoids of tarnished plant bug in New York strawberries, including day-neutral varieties. We collected tarnished plant bugs from day-neutral and June strawberries, on conventional and organic farms, located in seven counties. Parasitism rates range from 4% to 33%, and include both the introduced *P. digoneutis* and the native *P. pallipes*. These data document that both species of *Peristenus* are locating and helping suppress tarnished plant bug hosts in strawberries.

For a printed copy of the entire report, please contact the NYS IPM office at:

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